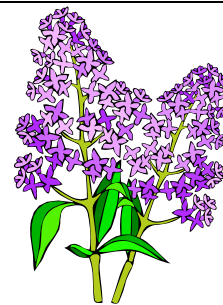




BWI Governors' Newsletter May 2009

www.bwi.org.uk



Message from Chair of Governors

There seems to be a great sense of excitement and anticipation around the school these days. It is as if we are holding our breath to see how the new creative curriculum will improve the learning experience of the children, and how our new leadership structure will help the development and management of the school. Our aim, as you will know, is to achieve an 'Outstanding' award at our next Ofsted inspection. The Teaching & Learning Committee has been monitoring the introduction of the creative curriculum since September, and governor visits have included looking at teachers' planning and lessons. We have received feedback from the leadership team and teachers as well as from pupils via subject coordinators. The response is very positive, with both teachers and pupils reporting more enjoyable learning. We hope to ensure that this leads to an improvement in pupils' attainment when looking at the school's end-of-year data.

In the recent league table results, I was most impressed that BWI were 5th in the Borough for CVA (contextual value added) or the overall improvement in attainment between Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. We consider this to be a very important measure of the quality of the teaching in the school.

On a visit this week, our School Improvement Partner (SIP) completed a 'learning walk' in our two reception classes as well as speaking to the staff. She was very impressed by the learning environments, both in class and outside, that we provide for our children. She remarked that in her opinion, we were well on the way towards becoming an outstanding school. She is a SIP in several schools in the Borough and said that our school could stand comparison with any of them, and was considerably better than many. Much well-deserved praise should go to our reception staff, who work hard and are expert in finding exciting ways for the children to learn.

Tim Rollin

FMSiS



We are very pleased to announce that BWI was awarded the Financial Management Standard in Schools accreditation in March. Briefly, the Standard itself is a series of statements of what is expected from a school that is managed well financially. It provides a benchmark that schools use to encourage self-improvement. It helps schools in evaluating the quality of their financial management and aids in training staff to become better financial managers. The Standard is awarded by an external assessor and is renewed every three years. Well done to Mrs Westbrook, Mrs Turner (our Finance Officer) and the Finance Committee for achieving this. We are one of the first Primary Schools in the Borough to gain accreditation in this year's tranche. In future, financial management, we understand, will form part of Ofsted assessments.

Basic Skills Quality Mark



Last term Mrs Westbrook announced that the school had been awarded the Basic Skills Quality Mark. The Quality Mark is awarded to a school to recognise their provision, practice and performance in literacy and numeracy, and is valid for three years. A school must demonstrate a whole school approach to improving standards in literacy and numeracy, with evidence of the impact of its approaches. It provides a framework for self evaluation and continuous improvement of the basic skills of all pupils in a school, including those who underachieve. Well done to Mrs Voisey who worked particularly hard in gathering the evidence for and preparing for the inspection and well done to all teaching staff who continually maintain standards in their day to day work.

Noah's Ark Room



We would like to thank everyone involved in getting this special classroom up and running. Staff, parents, pupils and governors have helped. The room will be used for many intervention groups including: Literacy, Speech & Language, 1 to 1 work etc. Our Inclusion team, lead by Mrs Blake, have carefully planned a timetable for the room and are very excited about using it.

Governing Body Membership

We were very pleased last term to appoint Olu Ogunsanlu as a Foundation Parent Governor. Here's what he has to say:

"I volunteered as a school Governor on the persuasion and encouragement of both another Governor and the Head Teacher. With two children at BWI, I felt it would be a good opportunity to give something back to the community. Having been a Sunday school teacher in my church, it seemed the right thing to do.

I am a qualified management accountant and having worked for over 18 years in finance, I feel that my financial skills can be put to good use in my role as governor at BWI. I intend to contribute my quota to ensuring that BWI remains one of the best schools in the borough whilst maintaining its Christian ethos and values."

Parent Vacancy - a couple of parents have come forward and are finding out more about the role of Governor. If you too are interested in getting involved please phone Tim Rollin, Chair of Governors, 01895 675493.

For information: Admissions Details of admission of children to full-time education (Reception Class) have been revised by the Borough on Government instructions. For children entering full-time education from the year 2010 onwards (born between 1/9/05-31/8/06), parents will now not be notified of their school place until 30 April prior to the child's September entry. This is later than the present arrangements which have a February/March notification. For more details please see the school website's admissions page www.bwi.org.uk



Reminder - we can be contacted via the following email address:
amarchant@hillingdongrid.org

E-mails will be managed and forwarded by the Clerk of Governors.
All Governors have pigeon holes in the school office for correspondence.